

THE COURIER

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Volume 26, Number 3 (2001)

25

Guy Coffin and his Family

by Blaine Mills

The photographer Guy Coffin was born 5 June 1880 at Locke's Mills, Maine, the son of Jacob Gilbert Coffin and Abigail R. Farrington. He had an older sister, Jennie C. born in 1871 and a younger brother, Foye, born 3 November 1882, who died 31 October 1893.

Jacob Gilbert Coffin known as "Gib" and his two brothers, Daniel Alphin and Charles came to town after the Civil War. They were the sons of Daniel Coffin and Mary Grover of Milan, NH. It is conceivable that the Coffin family had moved to Mason, Maine before the Civil War. Charles and "Gib" enlisted in the army from Mason.

Mrs. Coffin (Abbie R. Farrington) was born in Andover, Maine, the daughter of Samuel Farrington, Jr. and Susannah Coffin. She had one sister, Eliza Jane Sanborn, and three brothers, Oliver Perry, Charles Franklin and Pierce. After the death of her father, her mother married John Abbott. From this marriage, Abbie got a half brother, Morton Abbott. All of Abbie's family lived in the Andover area.

The Coffins lived for many years on the Howe Hill Road of Locke's Mills. "Gib" worked at the Tebbets Spool Mill. His children, Jennie and Guy, attended the little Alder River School at Locke Mills (now a residence next to the Red Top Restaurant). After graduation, Jennie taught school for a number of years and Guy worked briefly at the spool mill.

Guy started taking photographs around 1895. He used two cameras, a 4 X 5 and a 5 X 7, maintaining a dark room in his parent's home. By 1900, he could be considered a semi-professional. Much of his income was derived from his numerous family portraits taken at his home or on location. Nearly all of Guy's surviving Greenwood negatives were exposed between 1900 and 1905.

It was around 1904 or 1905 that the Coffin family moved to Mechanic Falls, where they would live out their lives. Guy's uncle, Morton Abbott, owned a general store at the Falls, and Guy went to work for him as a clerk. In time, Guy purchased the store from his uncle and operated the business for the next ten or fifteen years. Guy's cousin, Ralph Abbott, worked for him for many years, and at one time another cousin, Robert Sanborn, was an employee.

Guy's sister Jennie married Curtis E. Abbott of South Bethel. He was a mill superintendent, living in several towns around the State. Guy married Ellsworth Embree from Woburn, Massachusetts around 1914. She was born 12 April 1896, the daughter of Ellsworth Embree and Mary Tracy. Guy and Ellsworth raised two daughters, Kathryn L., born 8



Guy Coffin

Courtesy of the Greenwood Historical Society

August 1915 and Glennis A., born 11 May 1921.

Guy's father died in 1919 and his mother in 1922. They were buried with their son Foye and Abbie's brothers and parents at the Locke's Mills Cemetery.

Although he continued to keep store, he never stopped taking portraits on a part-time basis. His family had maintained a cottage at Round Pond since 1900 or 1901, but in the mid-1920s Guy sold Pine Hurst Cottage, thereby severing his last tie to Locke's Mills. In the late 1920s, he sold the store and went to work for the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier. At home, he continued his photography and started raising and showing poultry.

(Continued on page 4)



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of 20 December 2001, over \$590,000 had been raised from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 400 donors.

Corporate Gifts

Exxon \$1000
 Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC \$5000
 Mead Publishing Paper Division \$4000
 Northeast Bank \$25,000

In-Kind Services

Lee F. Carroll, Electrical Engineer, Gorham, NH, Design \$1904
 Points North Surveying, Bethel, Property Survey \$392.50
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(Donors of \$999 in honor of the Society's occupancy of the Robinson House in 1999)
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

How often have we heard the expression, "A picture is worth a thousand words?" Never is it so true than when we see the weekly historical photo from the Society's collection in the *Bethel Citizen* or in a display in one of our ever-changing and interesting exhibits. These vintage photographs remind us of a different era, a different way of life, a different standard of living, and from where we have come during the evolution of this great country of ours. It is not necessary to believe that any of us would want to live "back then" since life was hard in this region and most of our waking time would be spent toiling at bone-numbing tasks to ensure survival. In order that we should never forget our past on our trip through life, we need to consult records of all kinds – including the photographic, which is among the most vivid and therefore memorable.

Fortunately, we have hundreds of images in our collection, some of which were taken by the man featured in this issue – Guy Coffin, a photographer who was born and lived his early life in Locke Mills. Many of his photos have, and continue to appear in the *Citizen*, depicting life of ordinary people in the early 20th century. To learn more about his work and to view some of his other photographs, please stop by our research library. There are also hundreds of other images that may be of interest as well.

I would also like to officially welcome the two new trustees elected at the annual meeting – Bill Andrews of Newry and Grace McKivergan of Rumford. We thank them for all their past service and look forward to their wise counsel in the years ahead as we embark on the next phase of realizing our dream, the reconstruction of the Robinson House into a state-of-the art museum facility. With all your continued support, we will achieve this goal and the Society's expanded Regional History Center will become a reality. Thanks!

Alvin Barth

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012

New Life Members

Irmgard Dering, Bethel
Donald and Karen Bean, Bethel

(Guy Coffin, continued from page 1)

In 1937, Guy's brother-in-law, Curtis Abbott, died leaving Jennie a widow with no children.

In the late 1930s, Guy and Ellsworth built a new cottage at Bailey Island, but Guy did not have long to enjoy his new property as he died on 18 December 1942 at the age of sixty-two and was buried at Mechanic Falls.

During World War II, Guy and Ellsworth's daughter, Kathryn, went to work at Caribou, Maine. After Guy's death, Ellsworth took a job at Caribou after selling the Mechanic Falls home. Nearly all of Guy's negatives were stored in the attic of this house, but no one knows what happened to them.



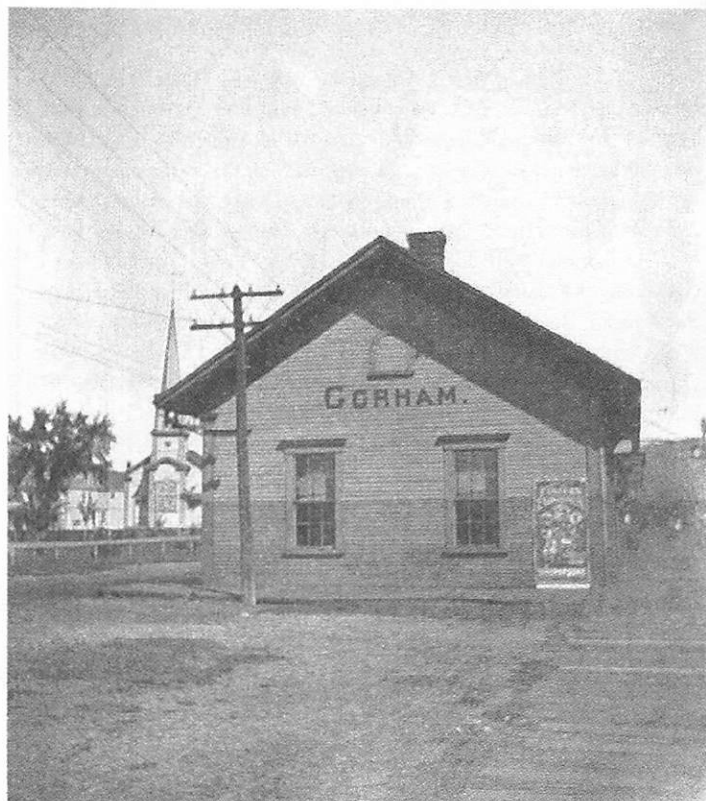
Gorham, New Hampshire celebrates the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the railroad. Society members George and Danna Nickerson are on the right side of the engine platform.



Bethel Cub Scouts and their leaders enjoy the model railroad operated at the Robinson House by Dean Walker (right).



Guy Coffin photo: Ruth Farrington (left) and Ethel Brooks at Sanborn farm, Middle Intervale, Bethel, ca. 1900



Guy Coffin photo: Railroad station at Gorham, NH, ca. 1900

OUR 36th ANNUAL MEETING

The 36th annual meeting of the Society was held at the Dr. Moses Mason House on September 6 with nearly seventy members and guests present. A chicken barbecue preceded the meeting on the Mason House lawn with President Al Barth manning the grills. He thanked Jim Lowe for preparing the chicken for barbecue and announced to applause that he was donating a grill to the Society for future annual meetings. At the end of the barbecue, a large decorated cake made by Lois Kilroy was unveiled, which paid tribute to Honorary Member Persis Post, who was moving to Vermont the next day. It was served to all present, and President Barth presented Mrs. Post with a special Bethel Historical Society pen made from wood once in the Robinson House. He noted her long record of service to the Society since 1980 and expressed the sentiment that she would be sorely missed.

The group then adjourned to the exhibit hall of the Mason House for the annual meeting and lecture. The minutes of the last annual meeting were dispensed with since they were published in THE CITIZEN last September. The president announced that the annual audit would be ready soon and would be published in THE COURIER. A moment of silence was observed following the reading by the president of the names of members who had died since the last annual meeting: Sharon Bennett, Phyllis Dock, Helen Varner Judkins, Roger E. Robertson, Ruth Scribner, Irene Russell, Ethel Chapman, John Bayerlein, John T. Grover, Marjorie Perry Menzies, Daphne Chapman, Leslie Noyes, Alfred Howard, Dr. Richard Bush, Archie Young, Dr. Edward Martin, Avis Rand, Royden Keddy, Judith Freeman Costa, Elizabeth Baker, Edmond Vachon, and Geraldine Howe.

The president reviewed some highlights of the past year: a membership gain of 52 individual and corporate members, over 80 donations of artifacts and other historical materials, several successful special events, completion of the MAP III survey (Museum Assessment Program III dealing with audience development) with two outside surveyors visiting and writing a report, completion of the re-wiring of the Robinson House and the beginning of extensive repairs to the exterior, the most successful annual fund campaign ever, the adoption of a business plan, and a reorganization of the capital campaign under a new chair, Bill Andrews for the second phase.

Seven Honorary Membership certificates, the Society's highest membership honor, were presented by the President. To be eligible, a member must be at least 75 years old and have compiled an outstanding record of volunteer service to the Society. Those honored this year were: Marna McGinniss, Avery Angevine, Margaret Davis, Jane and Dick Hosterman, Mildred Jackson, and Sylvia Wight.

Society Director Stan Howe presented the 15th annual Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award to Mary C. Keniston. The award is presented annually to an outstanding volunteer who best exemplifies the volunteer



New Honorary members, left to right, front row: Sylvia Wight, Mildred Jackson, Jane Hosterman, Richard Hosterman, Avery Angevine, and Marna McGinniss; back row Al Barth, president

spirit of Mrs. Noll. Mrs. Keniston was honored for her long record extending back more than 20 years. She served as secretary and clerk of the trustees, a trustee, and as treasurer. She has also been active on the Special Projects and Investment committees. One of her outstanding projects was researching the history of Mill Hill and later Grover Hill sections of Bethel and presenting the results of her research to the Society and publishing it in THE COURIER.

Under committee reports, the Nominating Committee (Arlene Lowell, chair, Lois Kilroy and Betty Robertson) presented the following slate for consideration: president, Alvin Barth; vice president, Arlan Jodrey; secretary and clerk of the trustees, Allen Cressy; treasurer, Susan Herlihy; trustees for three years, William Andrews and Grace McKivergan. The report was accepted without dissent. President Barth asked for a rising vote of thanks for two retiring trustees, Lois Kilroy and Priscella Walker. The business meeting was then adjourned.

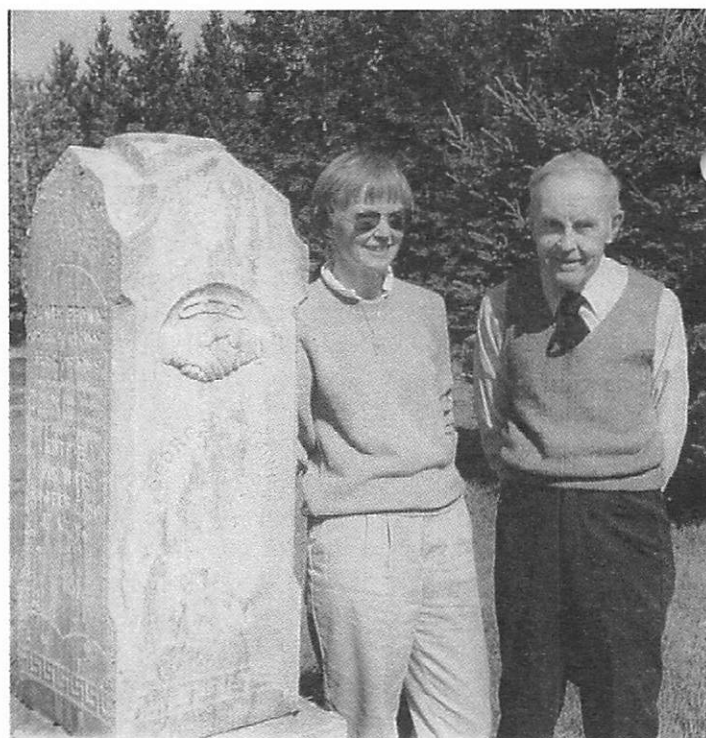
Society Director Stan Howe introduced the speaker for the evening by relating that he was suggested by Howe's best college friend, John Jaques, just prior to his death in December 2000. The speaker, Richard Joslin of Cambridge, MA, dedicated his lecture to the memory of Mr. Jaques, also his friend as well. Joslin, a retired architect and former Smith College faculty member, with undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard University, spoke on the life and work of his great-grandfather Sylvester Marsh, builder and promoter of the world famous cog railroad on Mt. Washington. Joslin presented a very comprehensive examination of Marsh and his project that has become one of the great icons of the White Mountains. Joslin has written the story of Marsh and the Cog. Copies of his publication were available after the meeting for autographing. Fruit punch and carrot cake were served during the social hour following the lecture.

In Memoriam

- Died, 23 September 2001, James A. Mann, Sr., South Yarmouth, MA, Contributing Member
- Died, 1 October 2001, Stanley L. Brown, Bethel, Senior Member
- Died, 1 October 2001, Elton "Red" Coolidge, Andover, Senior Member
- Died, 9 October 2001, Mary Angevine, Bethel, Life Member
- Died, 15 October 2001, Doris F. Wilkins, Clearwater, FL, Senior Member
- Died, 15 October 2001, Barbara Willey, Exeter, NH, Life Member
- Died 17 October 2001, Joan Trapp Wiese, Portsmouth, NH, Life Member
- Died, 27 October 2001, Rev. Clifford Laws, Silver Lake, NH, Contributing Member
- Died, 9 November 2001, Donald W. Calderwood, Mesa, AZ, Life Member
- Died, 20 November 2001, James Yarnell, Upton, Life Member
- Died, 26 November 2001, Margaret "Peg" Wheeler, Bethel, Senior Member
- Died, 3 December 2001, Wilho M. Matero, South Paris, Senior Member
- Died, 7 December 2001, Alice Kimball, Bethel, Senior Member
- Died, 12 December 2001, Ruth H. Cummings, Bethel, Senior Member

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217 or by an e-mail: info@bethelhistorical.org



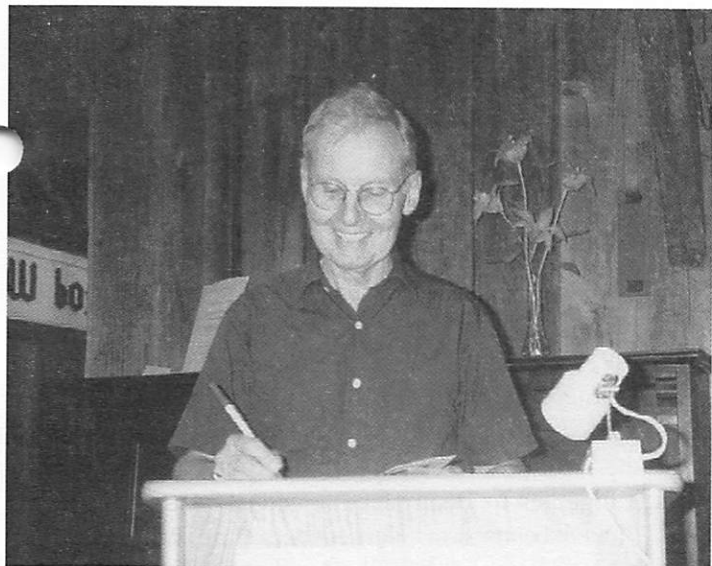
Nancy Saunders with her father, Charles B. Fobes, pose beside the Brown family monument in the Grafton Cemetery.

MEMBER PROFILE

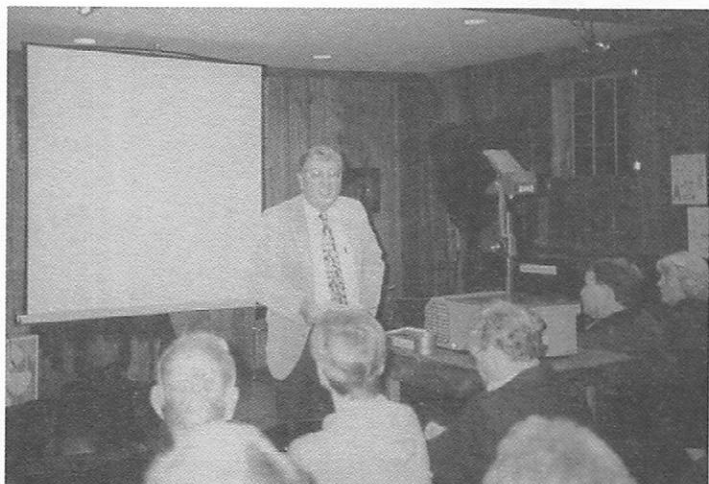
Charles B. Fobes

Born in Portland, 14 March 1909, the son of Harold and Lillian Brown Fobes, Charles .B. Fobes attended Portland schools, and graduated from Deering High School. From there, he attended the University of Maine receiving a degree in forestry managment in 1932. He maintained a lifelong interest in nature, working after graduation in Washington County, heading a group of Civilian Conservation Corps. During World War II, he was employed at the South Portland shipyards and traveled on a Coast Guard cutter to the Azores. He began working for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's weather bureau in 1945. His work involved weather balloons with transmitters to track upper air movements. He worked in New Hampshire and Massachusetts before returning to Maine where he retired in 1973. He continued his love for the outdoors, climbing to the summit of Mt. Washington at the age of 73. His writings on local subjects were published in *Appalachia* and in *Down East*. He married the former Marjorie Kimball in 1932 and they had one daughter Nancy. With family ties in the now extinct town of Grafton, he compiled a history (*Grafton, Maine: A Human and Geographical Study*), which was published by the University of Maine Press in 1951. This study is frequently consulted by researchers interested in learning more about that region of Oxford County. A longtime member of the Society, he was 92 at the time of his death on 25 July 2001.

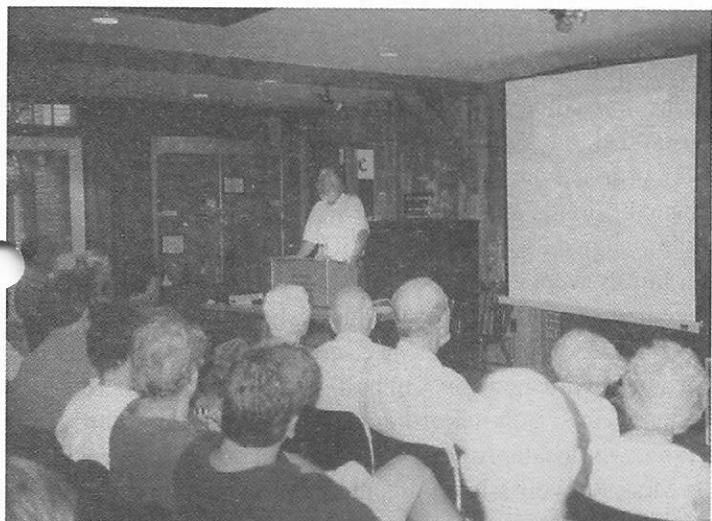
Snapshot Gallery



Annual Meeting speaker, Richard Joslin, autographs a copy of his book about his great-grandfather, Sylvester Marsh.



University of Maine at Farmington Geography Professor Paul Frederic presented a lecture on the rise and fall of the corn canning industry in Northern New England as part of the Society's 2001 lecture series.



Hall Memorial Lecturer, Dr. Joseph S. Wood, University of Southern Maine Provost, opened the 2001 Sudbury Canada Days with his lecture, "Inventing New England."



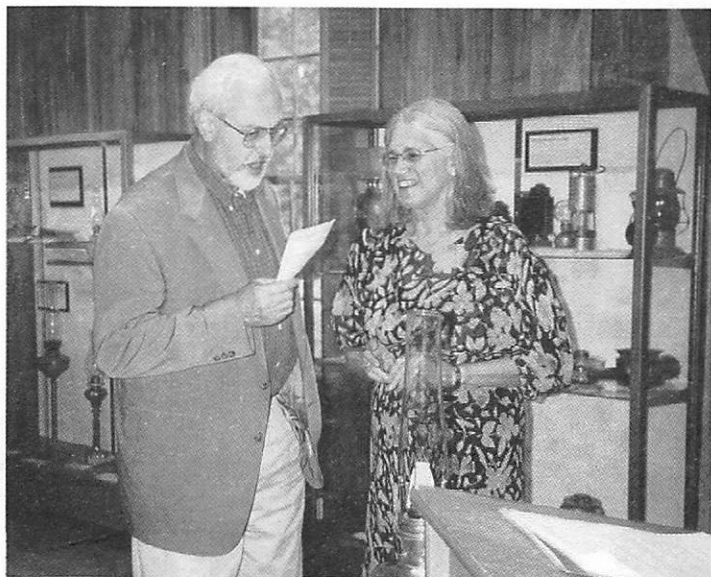
Participants in the Sunday River Valley house tour visit the Enoch Bartlett Homestead.



Persis Post was honored by the Society at the Annual Meeting with a special cake for all her many years of service. She is being congratulated by Al Barth, Society president. She moved to Vermont the following day to be near her daughter.



Alice Arlen (center), author of the Louise Dickinson Rich biography, *SHE TOOK TO THE WOODS*, visits with Bob Spidell and Becky Kendall following her lecture as part of the 2001 series.



Patricia Stewart discusses kerosene lighting at the opening of the lamp exhibit with Peter Gartner at the Dr. Moses Mason House Exhibit Hall.



Mary C. Keniston (center holding bowl) was honored with the 2001 Noll Volunteer Service Award. With her were daughter Donna Howe, Stan Howe, who presented the award, son, Donald Rice, and Al Barth, Society president.

Diary of William S. Hastings (continued from the last issue)



1938-- August 6, Hot. Mowed oats & picked chickens. August 7, Clear, hot. Took canoe & motor to Twitchell Pond. Motor runs nice! August 8, Cloudy. Set up thresher. Harrowed the bind weed pieces p.m. Threshed for Farwell. Shower stopped us. August 9, Cloudy. Cecil fixed tractor points. We took tree from roof of Bean barn. Our tenants, the Lakes, came. I'm installing a 60 Amp. entrance so they can use range. August 10, Clear & cool. Dressed poultry. Mowed 4 A oats. Pulled weeds. August 11, Rain. Connected two springs together to Bean place aqueduct. August 12, Fair, cool. Picked beans a.m. Turned oats p.m. Wired 1 1/2 hr. August 13, Clear, cool. Wired. Threshed 6 loads. August 14, Cloudy. Turned oats. Took kids to Farmington zoo. Crew threshed 2 loads. August 15, Clear & hot. Threshed 3 loads for us. 4 Kimball, 1 Ben Kimball. Loaded 4 loads for us. August 16, Clear & hot. Threshed 4 loads. C. M. Power crew installed 3 wire cable to Bean place. Shower at noon. August 17, Cloudy, rain. Pulled weeds p.m. Started on my shed cellar. Raised wood-hole up to floor level. August 18, Rain. Worked all day on shed. August 19, Clear & cool. Mowed 2 A 2nd crop clover. August 20, Clear & hot. Threshed all p.m. Loaded 9 loads & threshed 7. Sick with thresher's fever at night. August 21, Clear & cool. Grover's [Brooks] family & our family went to Tyler's Cove [in Lake Umbagog] by boat. Nice trip. August 22, Cloudy. Threshed 2 loads for us, 398 bu. so far. August 23, Clear & cool. Dug load of spuds for Portland. Threshed for Kimball. August 24, Clear & cool. Pulled weeds. Bob in Portland. Spuds \$1 per bu. retail; \$.54 per bu. wholesale. August 25, Clear & cool. Surveyed 5 hrs. on Miss Farwell's lot. Finished job to satisfaction of both parties. Curriers [Ruth's classmate from Farmington Normal School, Dorothy, and her parents from Hallowell] called on us. August 26, Clear & cool. Threshed for Noyes & got 2nd crop. Farwells have new tractor. F & G. Meeting in eve. August 27, Clear. Shower in p.m. Finished Noyes threshing. August 28, Clear & cool. Grover's family, John's family & our family explored Greenwood ice caves. Big blow-down, 70 rods X 20 rods just SE of caves. August 29, Clear. Got 2nd crop. Threshed for Jorgen. August 30, Clear. Dug load spuds. Norway in p.m. Showers. August 31, Cloudy. a.m. Patched Bean barn. Cut poles for bean stacks. Strained a nerve in left arm. Painful. September 1, Clear a.m. Showers p.m. Dressed poultry. P.M. went to Norway to see Dr. Swett about arm. He also put back in place. September 2, Clear. I'm laid up with my arm. Crew stacking beans, getting hay, etc. 322 stacks of beans. Load hay to Fiske. September 3, Clear. Arm better. Dressed poultry. Got hay. Threshed oats. Insured Harold Hutchins place. Fixed radio. September 4, Cloudy. Put light in Coburn Place. Made axe handle. Hiked 5 hrs. in woods.

Saw 12 partridge. September 5, Clear, cold. Cleaned out septic tank. Changed outlet pipe. Bob gone in p.m. to State Fair. Cut Kato Korn down. September 6, Clear. First frost. Filled silo to top in about 4 hours running time. Al Hendrickson called about lines in Gilead. September 7, Cloudy, rain. Cut in 2 loads corn. Worked rest of day on cellar. Broke hole through rock wall to main cellar. Ran south wall. September 8, Clear. Dressed poultry. Worked on cellar. Raised to Master Mason. September 9, Clear. Ran cement. Floor is almost finished. September 10, Clear, cool. Finished floor. Ran floor in hen house. District meeting of Masons in S. Paris. September 11, Clear, warm. Fryeburg for cranberries. Got 37 qts. Bob bought "Balm of Gilead" truck, \$35. September 12, Clouding. Picked yellow corn. Worked on cellar windows. (Done haying). Hard rain at night. September 13, Clearing, warm. All day on cellar windows. We are hauling waste gravel to deep hole on Bean interval. September 14, Clear. Worked on cellar. Made 1 door and "hung" it. Changed studs, boards & shingles. September 15, Rain. Made 2 doors. Bob sick. Got 5% check from Casco Bank \$85.80. September 16, Fair. Cellar in a.m. Dug load spuds in p.m. 57 bbl. September 17, Clouding in. Sawed school wood. September 18, Rainy. Greenwood. "Took up" a colony of bees. Not much honey. September 19, Rain. Repairing p.m. Started to put in casement window in Bean place kitchen. September 20, Rain. Carpentering, etc. September 21, Rain!! Stored all farm machinery. Regular flood. River almost bank full. Sou'easter. Lights out. September 22, Clearing. Trees down everywhere. No lights! Patched Bean barn & Dutton place. Bethel in eve. \$4.60 for glass & putty. September 23, Cloudy. Digging spuds. Awful wet. Poor crop of seed. 86 bbl. September 24, Clear, cool. Dug 99 bbl. Stored bean stacks. September 25, Clear, cold, windy. Went to Umbagog & finished camp. Nice trip. September 26, Clear, warm. Dug rest of seed piece, 123 bbl.; 28 bbl. on "Eph" piece; 151 bbls. September 27, Cloudy, warm. Dug seed plot before 7 a.m. Back to "Eph" piece, 100 bbl. Shower at 1:15 p.m. I've [got a] bad cold. September 28, Clear. Dug 218 bbl. Cold is bad. September 30, Clear, warm. Digging on Bill Howes. Awful digging. Not many spuds. Cold is worse. September 30, Cold windy. Sick with cold. Installed door bell. October 1, Cool. Our 15th wedding day. No trip this week because I'm half sick. Dug 1 acre on ours, 98 bbl. Norway in eve. New overcoat, \$19.50. Nice coat. October 2, Cool, clear. Went to Conroy Place. Ruth & I after crabapples. Greenwood in p.m. October 3, Cool, clear. Dug 93 bbl. Finished Eph piece. Now on Home Pasture. October 4, Clear, cool. Dug 232 bbl. & finished piece. October 5, Clear, warm. 260 bbl. on 5 A piece, 715 bu. October 6, Cold, windy. 252 bbl., 2 A. Hen tester here. Clint [Littlefield] set glass [in new windows]. October 7, Clear, warm. 123 bbls., finished our digging. Ruth & I started at 2:30 on a trip. Stayed at Johnson's Camps in Conway. October 8, Cold, clear. Went to Ossipee, Lake Winnepesaukee, Concord, Keene, N.H. Brattleboro, Vt., N. Adams, Mass.,

Williamstown, Mass., Bennington, Vt. & camps at Cambridge, N.Y. October 9, Cloudy. Schylerville, Ticonderoga, up west of L. George & Champlain to Plattsburg, Rouse's Point, Home via route 2, 450 miles. 750 in all. October 10, Cloudy, cold. Dug spuds for John. 124 bu. Finished digging. October 11, Clear & warm. Put high sideboards on red truck. Hauled wood. October 12, Clear & HOT. Graded spuds & dumped 300 bu. for Haakon [Olson]. October 13, Clear & warm. Plowed corn piece. Plow works mean. Needs new points. Mason Meeting. Game my M.M. lesson O.K. Signed By-Laws. October 14, Clear & warm. Raked and burned potato tops. Loaded truck for city. October 15, Cloudy. Bob in Portland. I plowed. Went to Bethel. October 16, Clear & warm. The Brooks' & our family went to Umbagog on picnic. Nice trip! October 17, Clear, warm. Bent plow points down. Plowed 3 A on Eph piece. Works fine. September 18, Clear, warm. Fixed Bean place carriage house into a garage. Hauled load of wood to Lakes [tenants]. October 19, Clear, warm. Finished garage. Helped Gene. Bob in Portland. \$1.05 cwt in city; \$.90 per bu. retail. October 20, Clear, cool. Dressed poultry. Renewed floor & trap door in Coburn house [where potatoes stored]. Uncle Orvern's folks here [the Milletts from South Paris]. Rain at night. First rain for one month. October 21, Clear, cool. Made corn crib. Put up spuds. Went hunting 4-6. Saw nothing. October 22, Clear, cool. Fixed fence. Hauled rocks & debris from shed job. Painted windows. October 23, Cloudy, clearing. Spent forenoon on Range line between R6 & 7 Lot 10. P.M. went to Greenwood. October 24, Rain! Hauled manure all day with 2 trucks. October 25, Cold, windy & squally. Spread manure a.m. 12 loads. P.M. put up spuds. October 26, Spread manure. October 27, Warm. Plowed. October 28, Plowed a.m. Sick p.m. October 29. Feel better. Framed Gene Burn's camp. October 30, Cool, clear. Went to Umbagog hunting. Grover, Harry, and Gerry [Brooks], Ned Cutter, John [Howe] & myself. October 31, Cool, clear. Drove B Brook Point. No luck. Fired at one deer. November 1, Cool, clear. No luck. November 2, Cool, clear. No luck. November 3, Warm, clear. Hard hunting. November 4, Warm, clear. Tough day, but no deer. November 5, Clear, warm. Came home. Glad to be here. November 6, Clear, warm. We went to Berlin, Groveton, Lancaster, Gorham & home. Nice trip. November 7, Cloudy, clearing, warm. Just like summer. Harrowed for us. Plowed 3 hrs. for Noyes. November 8, Clear & hot. Plowed 6 hrs. for Noyes. November 9, Cold & windy. 2 hrs. for Noyes. 3/4 hr. for John. P.M. on our own land. Finished plowing. November 10, Clear & warm. Sawed wood, 2 cords to Lake. 1 1/2 cords to Gramp Crockett. 3 cords to school. Mason meeting. M.M. degree by Dixfield. November 11, Clear, warm. Ruth's birthday. Sawed wood. Put up load spuds. November 12, Cloudy, warm. Put up load of spuds. November 13, Cool, light rain. Dad, George Haines, Rodney [Howe] & I went to Umbagog. November 14, Cold, squally. Hunted B Brook Point & swamp. Fired at a "flag." No luck.

(To be continued in the next issue)



Spring Grove Farm ca. 1900. Summer boarding house operated by the Valentine family.

Notes Regarding Bethel, Maine

by William Alton Valentine
(continued from the last issue)

The Home Farm

My father and grandfather bought the farm from Timothy H. Chapman in August 1863. The price was \$3,300 but I believe they only paid \$300 down.

At the time of purchase, it included the intervale clear down to The Island; I suppose approximately forty acres of intervale. I do not know how much woodland was included in the original purchase, but I think they also afterward added another good sized lot of woodland and also bought a thirty acre piece that we always spoke of as the Gerrish lot for about \$75.

This was bought prior to 1870 and a camp building built on it and quite a good deal of timber cut off it.

They had no mowing machine in those days and mowing forty acres by hand was quite a job so after a few years they sold twelve acres of intervale to Curatio Bartlett and the remainder from the Bartlett sale down to the island to Vincent Chapman only keeping the 18 acres of intervale we still have.

Grandfather was a carpenter by trade and in the early days asked advice on some matters from the people who had sold the farm to him. They thought he would never carry the purchase through and they would regain possession of the

farm so they were anxious to have the hay consumed on the farm so the manure would be put back on the farm.

At that time in the summer there was a stage line operating in the White Mountains and in the winter the stage horses were boarded out at ten dollars a head. Judging from my experience on the home farm one horse will eat about 2 ½ tons of hay during the winter. That winter hay sold for \$20 a ton so they got \$140 for the winter when they might have had \$700 by selling the hay.

As far as I know, Grandfather did nothing to help hay for the farm after he quit farming and went to Massachusetts in 1870, but Father and Mother paid off the last \$600 in 1887 and Father died June 14, 1888. Grandfather still claimed a half interest in the farm and after Father's death Mother paid him \$1,000 for his share, but he still kept hold of the Gerrish Lot for himself and I think at that time would have sold it for \$100 if anyone had offered that for it.

A few years later he deeded it to Charles and I and when we sold the timber on it three years ago we each cleared \$2400 on it. After the timber was sold, the new assessment of value for taxation was only \$150, and I deeded my half to Charles as he had carried the taxes on it for over 50 years. We always spoke of it as The Gerrish Lot but when it came to assign ownership we found it was spoken on the deed as the Hastings lot.

The old Chapman farm has passed out of the direct line but our farm is still in the hands of the Valentines.

(To be continued in the next issue)

Editor's Corner

The response to our latest ongoing memoir by William Valentine was very positive. We believe it is important that various examples in our collection be shared with our readers. This memoir provides another example of the diversity of sources relating to the past that reside here at the Regional History Center.

It is also interesting to note that the William Hastings diary continues to be of much interest to at least some of our readers. UMF Emeritus history professor Gwylm Roberts has written several notes to indicate how much he enjoys this diary appreciates and its historical significance. Another member told me that William Hastings has become his "best friend" from his reading of the diary which he avidly looks forward to in each issue.

Not everyone's favorite reading is a diary, but we trust that there are other items included in each COURIER that spark some interest. We attempt to have something different in each issue so that no one will be left out. Suggestions are always welcome. We are always looking for articles, photographs, and other items that might be enjoyed by our loyal readers.

SRH

Book Note

Maine Covered Bridge Finder by E.B. and D.K. Robertson. Saco, ME: Robertson Books, 1995. 89 pp., paper \$9.

In the foreword to this guide to the surviving covered bridges in Maine, the authors write: "Our reasons for publishing this books are to share some of the many photographs that we have taken of covered bridges in Maine, our interest and love of covered bridges, and to help people locate any of the remaining covered bridges in Maine. [Lastly], we hope that this book will stimulate more interest in preserving the few remaining bridges left in Maine." Originally issued in 1982, this updated edition of the *Maine Covered Bridge Finder* is enhanced by a collection of very useful maps, as well as many excellent photos. For anyone interested in these unique wooden spans from Maine's past, this book is a must.

This title is available from the Society's Museum Shop, and may be ordered by following the instructions on page 12.

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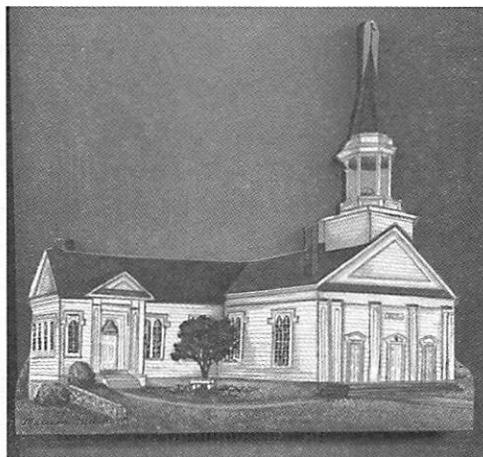
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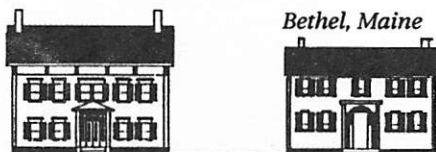
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